

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00023 031219Z

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2045

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP, EAID, CE

SUBJ: VISIT OF ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR NOOTER

FOR LEADER, NEA/INS

1. WOULD YOU PLEASE GET IN TOUGH WITH AMBASSADOR VAN HOLLEN BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR LONDON AND PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME, PROMPTED BY AMBASSADOR'S LETTER OF DECEMBER 20, JUST RECEIVED:

2. "RE NOOTER VISIT, ONCE NEW DATES WERE FIRM, ERNIE KANRICH PROCEEDED TO SET UP VISIT, IN OUR BELIEF THAT TO WAIT UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 20, WOULD BE CUTTING THINGS TOO FINE. IN VIEW BREVITY NOOTER'S STAY, KANRICH HAS ORGANIZED SMALL (TOTAL OF 10) STAG WORKING DINNER JANUARY 23 WITH HE HOPED YOU WOULD ATTEND. FOLLOWING HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED: AUSTIN FERNANDO, ERNEST ABEYRATNE, MAHINDA SILVA, CHANDANA COOREY, HERBERT TENNEKOON. ELMO SENEVIRATNE AND HILARY GUNASEKERA ARE STILL TO BE HEARD FROM. DO YOU WISH TO TAKE THIS DINNER OVER? IF SO, CAN WE INFORM GUESTS? AND WOULD YOU HAVE OTHER IDEAS? REMAINDERS COULD BE SENT OUT LATER IN CASE GUEST OF HONOR CHANGES.

3. "GSL HAS VOLUNTEERED TO PROVIDE TWO HELICOPTERS
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FOR ALL-DAY TRIP JANUARY 24 SO THAY CAN SHOW

MOOTER MAHAWELI GANGA, IRRIGATION, AND AGRICULTURAL
PROJECTS, WITH POSSIBLE STOPS IN POLONNARUWA
AND KANDY. HELICOPTER RRIP WOULD END AT KATUNAYAKE
BEFORE 6:40 P.M. FLIGHT REPORTING TIME. PARTY
WOULD CONSIST OF NOOTER, YOU IF YOU WISH, KANRICH,
AND GSL OFFICIALS FROM VARIOUS MINISTERIES CONCERNED.
WE WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO WORK AROUND CALL ON
PRIME MINISTER, WHICH I SHALL REQUEST IN FEW DAYS.

4. "PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR VIEWS. AID/W AND NOOTER KNOW
NOTHING OF FOREGOING."

5. NEW SUBJECT: I PASSED YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT
JUSTICE DOUGLAS'S ILLNESS ON TO AMBASSADOR
KANAKARATNE THIS MORING. HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL
TO YOU AND IS SENDING TELGRAM TO JUSTICE AND
MRS. DOUGLAS AT WALTER REED.

6. MANY THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
BYRNE

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